

From: Ken Krechmer
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: The use of standards to increase competition

Gentlepersons,

The new judgment of November 2, 2001 no longer requires splitting the company. However, the same approach is used to have Microsoft publish its operating system application programming interfaces (APIs) to allow other companies to develop compatible products. Microsoft maintains their very successful operating system monopoly through the use of these proprietary APIs, as well as aggressive marketing. Publishing APIs does not render them open. It is not even clear in this judgment how these APIs are described: software program code, written specification, formal description language, or? Open standards appear to be necessary to create open interfaces. For a discussion of the history of monopolies and standards, the problems that are not resolved by published APIs and how open standards may be used to maintain both competition and competitive advantage please see <http://www.ses-standards.org/library/krechmerbaskin.pdf> for a copy of "Microsoft Anti-Trust Litigation - The Case for Standards" the first prize paper at the World Standards Day proceedings.

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